

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 08396 201453Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0948

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 08396

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD, US

SUBJECT: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: STATE 167607

SUMMARY: WE BRIEF THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT (MFA DIREC
OR GENERAL SCHOUMAKER) ON THE CHAD SITUATION AND ASK
WHETHER BELGIUM IS PREPARED TO JOIN IN AN AID EFFORT
AND HOW. SCHOUMAKER SAYS HE WILL SEEK A FAST DECISION
AT THE POLICY LEVEL. END SUMMARY.

1. WE CALLED ON THE NEW MFA DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR POLITI-
CAL AFFAIRS (SCHOUMAKER) TODAY AND SET FORTH THE SITUATION
AS PER REFTTEL, CONCLUDING WITH A REQUEST FOR BELGIAN
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VIEWS ON THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THE GOC.

2. SCHOUMAKER LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO OUR EXPOSITION
OF THE SITUATION AND ASKED FOR OUR APPRAISAL OF THE
SERIOUSNESS OF THE GOC'S PREDICAMENT. WE STRESSED
VP DJIME'S CONCERN THAT ALL OF NORTHERN CHAD IS IN PERIL.
HE SAID THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET RECEIVED

CHAD'S LIST OF NEEDED EQUIPMENT. WE OUTLINED THE NATURE OF THE CHAD SHOPPING LIST.

3. REGARDING BELGIUM'S EVENTUAL RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL, SCHOUMAKER SAID THAT THE MATTER HAD NOT YET BEEN BROUGHT TO THE DECISION-MAKING LEVEL IN BRUSSELS. HE SAID THERE WAS ONE OBVIOUS OBSTACLE TO A FAVORABLE REACTION, VIZ. BELGIUM'S POLICY OF NOT SENDING ARMS TO COUNTRIES IN STRIFE WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE SAID, BELGIUM'S RELATIONS WITH CHAD WERE GOOD AND SUPPORTIVE. MOREOVER, BELGIUM WAS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MAINTAINING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF AFRICAN STATES, WITNESS ITS SUPPORT OF ZAIRE IN THE SHABA INVASION.

4. SCHOUMAKER SAID THAT OUR IDEA OF A COORDINATED RESPONSE ON THE PARTS OF THE FRIENDS OF CHAD STRUCK HIM AS A GOOD APPROACH. HE SAID THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAD ALREADY ASKED THE FRG AND FRANCE HOW THEY EXPECTED TO REACT TO THE CHAD BILATERAL APPEALS FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE, WOULD LIKEWISE POLL THEM ON OUR IDEA OF A MULTILATERAL AID EFFORT. HE SAID HE WOULD GET BACK TO US WITH AN AUTHORITATIVE BELGIAN POSITION ASAP.

5. WE ASKED WHEN A REPLY COULD BE EXPECTED. SCHOUMAKER ASKED IF IT WAS URGENT - WERE DEVELOPMENTS BEING MEASURED
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IN DAYS OR WEEKS? DEFINITELY DAYS, WE SAID. SCHOUMAKER SAID HE WOULD PRESS FOR AN EARLY REACTION. CHAMBERS

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